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NOV 23 2005

DOCKET NO.: ASHOP103US

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of

Applicant: Suresh Patel  
Serial No.: 10/617,919  
Filed: July 9, 2003  
For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR VALIDATING AND VISUALIZING APC ASSISTED  
SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING PROCESSES**  
Art Unit: Unknown  
Examiner: Unknown

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98, and in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the Office's attention is directed to the patents, publications and other information listed on the attached PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed except for: (a) pending applications; (b) those previously cited or submitted to the Office in the following application(s) upon which this application relies for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120; and/or (c) U.S. Patent(s) and published applications(s).

Serial No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Filing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Regarding any document, publication or other information for which a date is not given on the attached PTO-1449, Applicant(s) believe(s) the same may qualify as "prior" art to this application and should be treated accordingly, although Applicant(s) reserve(s) the right to contest the prior art status of any document, publication or information, should issue arise.

2. Regarding each listed document that is not in the English language, an English-language translation accompanies this Statement as indicated on the attached PTO-1449 or a concise explanation of the relevance of the document is set forth in the following document(s):

- (a) ☐ Copy of each English language version of a search report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office of each document being submitted from the search report.
- (b) ☐ Attachment entitled "Concise Explanation of Relevance of Non-English Language Documents".

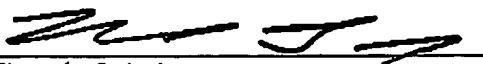
3. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) this Statement is being filed (one must be checked):

- (a) ☐ Within 3 months of the filing date or date of entry into the National Stage.
- (b) ☒ Before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. If this Statement is not filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, the required certification is given below or, in the absence thereof, the Office is authorized to charge the required fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 for consideration of this Statement.
- (c) ☐ Before the mailing date of an Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 1.114.

- (d) ☐ After the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) but before the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance.
- (1) ☐ The required certification is given below, or
- (2) ☐ Regarding the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for consideration of this Statement:
- (i) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee;
- (ii) ☐ Charge the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-1063; or
- (iii) ☐ Enclosed is a credit card payment form covering the fee.
- (e) ☐ After the mailing date of either a final action or a notice of allowance, but before payment of the issue fee. Petition hereby is made for consideration of this Statement and the required certification is indicated below. Regarding the fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(f)(1) for consideration of this Statement:
- (1) ☐ Enclosed is a check covering the fee;
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- (3) ☐ Enclosed is a credit card payment form covering the fee.
4. Certification (if applicable)
- (a) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.
- (b) ☐ The undersigned hereby certifies that no item of information contained in this Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the undersigned's knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(c) more than 3 months prior to the filing of this Statement.
5. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1063.

Respectfully Submitted,

By

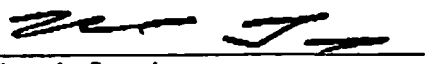
  
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referenced as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 571-273-8300 on the date shown below to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

11-23-05  
Date

  
Himanshu S. Amin

PTO/5B/08a (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2005. OMB 0851-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>		Application Number	10/617,919
		Filing Date	July 9, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Sukesh Patel
		Art Unit	Unknown
		Examiner Name	Unknown
(Use as many sheets as necessary)		Attorney Docket Number	ASHOP103US
Sheet	1	of	2

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
[Signature]		US- 2002/0089500 A1	07-11-2002	Jennings Jr., et al.	
		US- 2003/0065486 A1	04-03-2003	Sumida, et al.	
[Signature]		US- 6,297,064 B1	10-02-2001	Koshimizu	
		US- 5,572,430 A	11-05-1996	Lu	
		US- 6,255,115 B1	06-26-2001	Lu	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>5</sup>
		Country Code <sup>2</sup> Number <sup>3</sup> Kind Code <sup>4</sup> (if known)				

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	7/2/06
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinda Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 801.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

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PTO/SB/08b (08-03)

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO		Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Application Number	10/617,919
		Filing Date	July 9, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Sukesh Patel
		Art Unit	Unknown
		Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet 2 of 2	Attorney Docket Number	ASHOP103US	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
		International Search Report dated October 24, 2003 for International patent application No. PCT/US04/22222. 5 pages.	
		<i>not included</i>	
		<i>not prior art.</i>	
		<i>&amp; there is no priority</i>	
		<i>- not relevant.</i>	

Examiner Signature	<i>H Jones</i>	Date Considered	7/2/06
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.  
<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.  
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